

response, Applicants provisionally elect the invention of group I (claims 1-3 and 12-17) *with traverse.*

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the restriction requirement at least insofar as groups I and II are concerned. The stated basis for the Restriction Requirement, in the sentence bridging pages 2-3 that the "inventions as claimed do not encompass overlapping subject matter," appears to be in error. Specifically, claim 4 (allegedly drawn to the group II invention) depends from and incorporates the limitations of claim 1 (allegedly drawn to the group I invention). A dependent claim and the claim from which it depends necessarily encompass overlapping subject matter. Accordingly, no sufficient basis has been articulated for restricting among the group I and group II inventions. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the restriction requirement and examination of groups I and II (claims 1-17) at this time.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, early notification of a favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0206 in the amount of \$450 to cover the two-month extension of time fee. In the event of any variance between this amount and the fees determined by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, please charge or credit any such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,

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